Employees of Panki Thermal Power Station, Kanpur

1583. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 801 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1985 and state;

(a) whether the UPSEB has reported to the Central Government further that about 550 candidates were declared successful in the examination held in the year 1977 for promotion to the post of Junior Engineers in three different projects including the Panki Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order to deprive these successful candidates their due promotion the UPSEB is again proposing to hold further examination in November, 1985 itself; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of life saving drug in the Public Sector

1584. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any emphasis has been laid to produce life saving drugs in the public sector and to reduce its prices during the Seventh Plan period so that the people do not suffer on this account; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Public sector drug companies are already major producers of categories I and II bulk drugs and formulations and will continue to do so during the Seventh Five Year Plan period also. Prices of such drugs are fixed under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Production of Caustic Soda

1585. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of factories engaged in the production of Caustic Soda;

(b) what is the production of Caustic Soda in the country during the last 3 years, year-wise and whether this production is enough to meet the requirements in the country;

(c) whether Government have any plans to increase the production by modernising the Industry; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The requisite information, to the extent readily available, is given in the statement annexed (*See below*).

(b) The production of Caustic Soda in the country during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 was 5.77, 6.47 and 6.84 lakh tonnes respectively. Sufficient capacity exists to meet the indigenous demand.

(c) and (d) Government encourages modernisation of technology in areas like use of metal anodes and Memorane Cells. Such modernisation can result in increased output.